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Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION*

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* *The present document replaces and supersedes the annotated provisional agenda and organization of the work of the session contained in document UNEP/GCSS.III/1/Add.1, of 19 November 1991, which is hereby withdrawn.*

Na.92-0003

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

Item 1. Opening of the session

1. The third special session of the Governing Council will be opened by the President of the Council at its sixteenth session or, in his absence, by one of the other officers of the Council at its sixteenth session.[1]

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

Action required

2. In accordance with rule 12 of its rules of procedure, the Council is to adopt the agenda for its third special session on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/GCSS.III/1). Moreover, the Council will be invited to consider and approve the organization of the work of the session.

Background

3. The provisional agenda for the third special session, as approved by the Council at its sixteenth session in decision 16/3 and annex of 31 May 1991, was distributed on 18 September 1991 as document UNEP/GCSS.III/1.

4. The organization of work and the meeting times of the third special session, as proposed by the Executive Director, is contained in annex I to the present document. It is proposed that all the items on the provisional agenda be dealt with in plenary meetings. Immediately after the formal opening of the session in the morning of Monday, 3 February, the Council would devote the rest of that meeting and the following four meetings to provisional agenda items 4 (Consideration of the synthesis state-of-the-environment report to be presented to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development), 5 (Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and its financing) and 6 (Consideration of the Secretary-General's consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187) which will be discussed simultaneously. At its last meeting, in the afternoon of Wednesday, 5 February, the Council would take up provisional agenda items 3 (Credentials) and 7 (Adoption of the report) and conclude the session with item 8 (Closure of the session). In view of the acute constraints of time, the Executive Director will be proposing to the Bureau that *interventions be limited to a maximum of seven minutes in the case of representatives of Governments and to a maximum of five minutes in the case of observers from intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations*.

5. Annex II to the present document contains a list of the relevant documents submitted under each item of the provisional agenda.

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[1] *In keeping with the rules of procedure of the Governing Council (UNEP/GC.3/Rev.3), no election of officers is foreseen at the third special session. According to rule 18, "at the commencement of the first meeting of its regular session, the Governing Council shall elect a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur from among its members". Rule 19 provides that the President, Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur shall hold office until their successors are elected. The officers elected at the sixteenth session therefore remain in office until the next (seventeenth) regular session of the Council.*

Documentation

UNEP/GCSS. III/1 – Provisional agenda

UNEP/GCSS. III/1/Add. 1/Rev.1 – Annotated provisional agenda and organization of the work of the session

UNEP/GCSS. III/Inf. 1 – Report on the state of preparedness of documents for the third special session

Item 3. Credentials of representatives

Action required

6. In accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 17 of its rules of procedure, the Council is to receive and approve the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives to the third special session of the Council.

Background

7. In accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 17 of the rules of procedure, the credentials of representatives at the third special session of the Council will be examined by the Bureau, which will report thereon to the Council. It should be noted that, under rule 16, each member of the Council is to be represented by one accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required. According to paragraph 1 of rule 17, the credentials of representatives are "to be submitted to the Executive Director *before the first meeting which the representatives are to attend*". Given the short duration of the session, it is imperative that all representatives comply with this rule. A list of the Governing Council member States for the biennium 1992-1993 is contained in annex III to the present document.

Item 4. Consideration of the synthesis state-of-the-environment report to be presented to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

Action required

8. Under this item, the Council is expected to review the analytical report of the Executive Director on the state of the word environment 1972-1992 (UNEP/GCSS.III/2). The comments of the Council on the Executive Director's report will be included in the report of the Council on the work of its third special session and that report will be transmitted to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through its Preparatory Committee, as well as to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session through the Economic and Social Council. Further, the Executive Director is submitting to the Council, for its information, the draft chapter 24 of the comprehensive state-of-the-environment report (1972-1992) (UNEP/GCSS.III/Inf.3), which contains the summary and conclusions of that report. The Council will also have before it a text of suggested action (UNEP/GCSS.III/2/Add.1 and Corr.1) as submitted by the Executive Director. The Council may wish to adopt a decision along the lines suggested by the Executive Director. The analytical state-of-the-environment report will already have been sent to the secretariat of the Conference by the time of the third special session.

Background

9. At its fifteenth regular session, in May 1989, the Council requested the Executive Director (decision 15/13 A, para. 7 b) to prepare for presentation to UNCED "a brief analytical report on changes in the state of the world environment since 1972". Subsequently, in its resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the General Assembly decided (section I, para. 15) that the Conference, in addressing environmental issues in the developmental context, should, among its objectives "examine the state of the environment and changes that have occurred since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in 1972 ... ". Consequently, in compliance with the Council's decision 15/13 A, and bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 44/228, the Executive Director is presenting for the consideration and comments of the Council his analytical report on the state of the environment (1972-1992) which will be submitted to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. At its sixteenth session, the Council requested the Executive Director to expedite the preparations for the comprehensive state-of-the-environment report for it to be available in time for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 (decision 16/15 C). As it now seems impossible for the full report to be available by that time, the Executive Director has decided to provide to the Council, for its information, the draft chapter 24 thereof (UNEP/GCSS.III/Inf.3), which contains a summary and the conclusions of the comprehensive report.

Documentation

UNEP/GCSS.III/2 – The state of the environment (1972-1992) – saving our planet – challenges and hopes

UNEP/GCSS.III/2/Add.1 and Corr.1 – Suggested action by the Governing Council

UNEP/GCSS.III/Inf. 3 – Draft chapter 24 of the comprehensive state-of-the-environment report (1972-1992)

Item 5. Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and its financing

Action required

10. Under this item, the Council has before it the report of the Executive Director on the Status of Desertification and Implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (UNEP/GCSS.III/3). The Executive Director's report is to be reviewed by the Council. The report has already been sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for presentation to the Preparatory Committee of the Conference at its fourth session. The Council will have before it for information only a document (UNEP/GCSS.III/Inf.2) containing the report of the Secretary-General on financing the Plan of Action, which was prepared with the assistance of the Executive Director of UNEP. The Council is invited to comment on the Secretary-General's report. The comments and views of the Council on the Executive Director's report will be included in the report of the Council on the work of its third special session and that report will be transmitted to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through its Preparatory Committee. Finally, the Council may wish to adopt a decision on the subject along the lines of the suggested action by the Governing Council submitted by the Executive Director in document UNEP/GCSS.III/3/Add.1.

Background

11. In its resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the General Assembly included the problem of desertification "among those of major concern in maintaining the quality of the Earth's environment and

especially in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development in all countries" (para. 12). At the same session, the Assembly, in resolution 44/172A of 19 December 1989 on implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, requested the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to accord high priority to desertification control and to deploy all means necessary, including financial, scientific and technological resources, to halt and reverse the process of desertification with a view to preserving the ecological balance of the planet" (para. 5). Lastly, in its resolution 44/172A, the General Assembly invited the Governing Council "to contribute substantially to the discussion on desertification at the Conference, *inter alia*, by undertaking a general evaluation, sufficiently in advance of the Conference, of the progress achieved in implementing the Plan of Action" (para. 6). In compliance with this invitation, the Executive Director is submitting his draft report to the Council for its consideration.

12. The report on financing the Plan of Action (UNEP/GCSS.III/Inf.2), prepared in compliance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 44/172 A of 19 December 1989, is being submitted by the Secretary-General to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development through the Preparatory Committee of the Conference. As the subject matter of the Secretary-General's report, which was prepared with the assistance of the Executive Director, is so closely related and interlinked to the Executive Director's report on the status of desertification and implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the Secretary-General's report is being submitted to the Council for information.

Documentation

UNEP/GCSS. III/3 – Status of desertification and implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification

UNEP/GCSS.III/3/Add.1 – Suggested action by the Governing Council

UNEP/GCSS. III/Inf. 2 – Financing the Plan of Action

Item 6. Consideration of the Secretary-General's consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187

Action required

13. The consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227 of 22 December 1989 is being submitted to the Governing Council for its views and comments which will be transmitted in its report on the work of its third special session, together with the Secretary-General's report, to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through its Preparatory Committee, and, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. In addition to the views and comments of the Council included in its report, the Council may wish to consider the adoption of a decision on the subject taking into account the action suggested by the Executive Director in document UNEP/GCSS.III/3/Add.1.

Background

14. In its resolution 44/227 of 22 December 1989, the General Assembly requested (para. 19) the Secretary-General to submit to the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through

the Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council, a progress report on the implementation of resolution 44/227 which dealt with implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187. In this context, it should be recalled that by resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987, the General Assembly adopted the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond as formulated, approved and submitted by the Governing Council. By resolution 42/187, also of 11 December 1987, the Assembly welcomed the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. In follow-up to the Assembly's request made in resolution 44/227, the Governing Council at its sixteenth regular session in May 1991 considered the Secretary-General's progress report and transmitted that report together with its own comments, through the Economic and Social Council, to the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

15. In paragraph 20 of its resolution 44/227, the General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General "to prepare for submission to the Conference and to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Council, a new consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 by Governments and organizations of the United Nations system".

16. The Secretary-General's report is being submitted to the Council for its consideration and comments in compliance with this request of the General Assembly.

Documentation

UNEP/GCSS. III/4 – Consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227 of 22 December 1989

UNEP/GCSS.III/4/Add.1 – Suggested action by the Governing Council

Item 7. Adoption of the report

Item 8. Closure of the session

Annex I

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS FOR THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL

DATE	A.M.	P.M.
	10 .00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	**3.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.**
Monday 3 February	**Item 1**: Opening of the session **Item 2**: Adoption of the agenda **Item 4**: Consideration of the synthesis state-of-the-environment report to be presented to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development **Item 5**: Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and its financing **Item 6**: Consideration of the Secretary-General's consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187	**Items 4, 5, 6** (con't)
	11.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	**3.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.**
Tuesday 4 February	**Items 4, 5, 6** (con't)	**Items 4, 5, 6** (con't)
	10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	**5.00 p.m. – closure**
Wednesday 5 February	**Items 4, 5, 6** (con't)	**Item 3**: Credentials of representatives **Item 7**: Adoption of the report **Item 8**: Closure of the session

Annex II

DOCUMENTATION FOR THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL

	Provisional agenda item	Document symbol and title
1.	Opening of the session	
2.	Adoption of the agenda	UNEP/GCSS.III/1 – Provisional agenda UNEP/GCSS.III/1/Add.1/Rev.1 – Annotated provisional agenda and organization of the work of the session UNEP/GCSS.III/Inf.1– Report on the state of preparedness of documents for the third special session
3.	Credentials of representatives	
4.	Consideration of the synthesis state-of-the-environment report to be presented to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development	UNEP/GCSS.III/2 – The state of the environment (1972-1992): saving our planet – challenges and hopes UNEP/GCSS.III/2/Add.1 and Corr.1 – Suggested action by the Governing Council UNEP/GCSS.III/Inf.3 – Draft chapter 24 of the comprehensive state-of-the-environment report (1972-1992)
5.	Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and its financing	UNEP/GCSS.III/3 – Status of desertification and implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification UNEP/GCSS.III/3/Add.1 – Suggested action by the Governing Council UNEP/GCSS.III/Inf.2 – Financing the Plan of Action
6.	Consideration of the Secretary-General's consolidated report on further substantive follow-up to General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187	UNEP/GCSS.III/4 – Consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/227 of 22 December 1989 UNEP/GCSS.III/4/Add.1 – Suggested action by the Governing Council
7.	Adoption of the report	
8.	Closure of the session	

Annex III

MEMBER STATES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

By alphabetical order (indicating terms of office)

Argentina *
Australia **
Austria *
Bangladesh **
Barbados *
Bhutan **
Botswana **
Brazil *
Burundi *
Cameroon **
Chile **
China *
Colombia **
Congo **
Cote d'Ivoire **
Czechoslovakia **
Denmark **
France *
Gabon *
Gambia *
Germany *
Guyana **
India **
Indonesia *
Iran **
Italy **
Japan *
Kenya **
Kuwait *
Lesotho *
Malaysia **
Mauritius *
Mexico **
Netherlands **
New Zealand *
Nigeria **
Norway *
Pakistan **
Peru *
Philippines *
Poland **
Portugal **
Romania **
Russian Federation *
Rwanda **
Senegal **
Spain *
Sri Lanka **
Thailand *
Tunisia *
Ukraine *
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland **
United States of America *
Uruguay **
Venezuela *
Yugoslavia *
Zaire *
Zimbabwe *

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* *Term expires on 31 December 1993.*